



**Request for City Council Committee Action
From IGR - Department of Grants & Special Projects**

Date: March 12, 2002
To: Ways & Means Committee
Referral to: Minneapolis City Council

Subject: Two DNR Grant Agreements for Winchell Trail Projects (2)

Submitted by Michy Wells, Planner, 673-2588

Approved by John Moir, City Coordinator _____

Presenters in Committee: Deb Boyd (661-4812) MPRB
Michy Wells (673-2588) G&SP Planner

Recommendation

1. Authorize the City, through the Grants and Special Projects Office, to enter into and execute two DNR pass-through "National Recreational Trail Program" grant agreements on behalf of the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB).
2. Authorize appropriate city officials to develop and enter into appropriate legal agreements with another contract with the MPRB to hold the city harmless. Receiving these funds is contingent upon a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the city and the MPRB.
3. Increase the appropriation for the Non-Departmental agency by a total of \$100, 000 to receipt these DNR awards for these Winchell Trail projects (0600-123-1232).
4. Increase the appropriation in the Transfer agency by \$100,000 and transfer funds to the MPRB for project implementation (0600-127-1270).
5. Amend 2002 Park Board Operating Budget to reflect these transferred DNR grant funds (4300-910-9136).

Previous Directives - Park Board Resolutions #2001-157 and #99-142

Financial Impact (Check those that apply)

- ☐ No financial impact - or - Action is within current department budget.
(If checked, go directly to Background/Supporting Information)
- ☐ Action requires an appropriation increase to the Capital Budget
- ☒ Action requires an appropriation increase to the Operating Budget
- ☒ Action provides increased revenue for appropriation increase
- ☐ Action requires use of contingency or reserves
- ☐ Other financial impact (Explain):
- ☒ Request provided to the Budget Office when provided to the Committee Coordinator

Background/Supporting Information Follows

Two DNR Winchell Trail Regional Park Projects

The Winchell Trail is an important component of the Minneapolis Regional Park System. Also known as the Grand Rounds Parkway System, the regional park provides over 45 miles each of separated walking and cycling trails. These interconnect with regional trail systems in St. Paul, Anoka County, Dakota County, Brooklyn Center (via Shingle Creek), as well as the Luce Line State Trail, Fort Snelling and the western suburbs of St. Louis Park and Hopkins. The Winchell Trail is a high priority for MPRB funding as it is mainly a citizen-driven effort to improve the Mississippi River Gorge. Safety concerns exist due to deteriorating trail, steps, and eroding slopes. Enhancing this trail section will result in improved user safety by improving the grade, facilitating drainage using appropriate cross slopes, stabilizing adjacent slopes, helping reduce erosion, and providing a handicap accessible interior trail loop. Approximately 45,000 people reside within one mile of the Winchell Trail, a well-used facility serving 500,000 visitors annually. The following project descriptions provide more specific information.

Winchell Trail Access Improvements Project - The MPRB receives \$50,000 in DNR Cooperative Trail Grant funds for this project. The required local match (50-50 split) is \$50,000 designated from NRP Longfellow Neighborhood funds. This project will remove barriers to the regional trail along West River Road (Winchell Trail). It will link regional park trails at street level with the historic Winchell Trail segments within the Mississippi River's only true gorge, which is within the boundaries of the Mississippi National River Recreation Area (MNRRA). Two new ramps will be constructed to provide access suitable for wheelchair users and others with mobility difficulties. One ramp is at E. 44th St., and the other is at Northrup Lane, near Michael Dowling School. Stairs will be added just north of E. 27th St. to help reduce riverbank erosion. This project will improve access into and safety within the gorge, improve community ownership of the river gorge, as well as trail and access features that preserve and enhance the river gorge as a precious ecological and environmental asset within the city and region. It will also enhance public outdoor recreation opportunities consistent with the above goals and needs of people with disabilities. **(MN DNR grant agreement A33150; project #028-98-6)**

Winchell Trail Enhancement Project - The MPRB receives \$50,000 in DNR grant funds for this project. The required local match (50-50 split) is \$50,000 designated NRP Longfellow Neighborhood funds. Located below West River Parkway within the Mississippi River Gorge, the project is part of the existing historic Winchell Trail. The trail enhancement will generally take place between the designated trailhead or 'gateway' in the neighborhood approved Master Plan at the 35th and 36th Street parking lots. **(MN DNR grant agreement A33151; project #0015-99-6A).**

The Longfellow Community Council has provided a letter of support to the MPRB.

The MOU, presently being drafted by the City Attorney's staff will specify the MPRB is receiving these federal pass-through grant funds from the Minnesota DNR through the City to implement these two projects. It will also stipulate that the MPRB accepts all responsibility for compliance related grant requirements, management and implementation of these two Winchell Trail projects, including ensuring financial accountability, appropriate record keeping and reporting with required documents.

Cc: Deb Boyd, MPRB
Terri Spencer, Finance
Lynn MacLennan, Finance